



Michigan Association of School Nurses#

School Superintendents' Survey: Number of School Nurses in Michigan#

May 2011#

Summary

Michigan ranks the very last in the nation in the ratio of school nurse to students according to estimates by the National Association of School Nurses (2011). The actual number of school nurses is not currently collected by any agency or organization in Michigan. The Michigan Association of School Nurses conducted an online survey of school superintendents in Michigan to better determine the number and location of school nurses in the state.

Methodology

From December 2010 until the end of January 2011, an online survey was conducted. Superintendents from Michigan Public Schools (549), Intermediate School Districts (59) and Public School Academies (292 charter schools) were invited by an email from MASN to participate. A follow-up email was sent to superintendents by MDE several weeks after the initial invitation.

Superintendents were asked to report the number of FTEs RNs providing service to their schools.

Each school district, including those who did not respond, was weighted based on school district size. Based on the survey respondents results received, numbers were extrapolated to project a number of school nurses for the non-respondents. Outliers were eliminated (i.e. if one school nurse program was so well staffed it skewed the results for other school districts that had a student population of similar size). See Appendix A, page 7.

Results were tallied for each of the three categories - public schools, Intermediate School Districts and Public School Academies (charter schools)

Response Rates

- 298 out of a total of 900 schools and school districts (249 public schools, 59 intermediate school districts, and 292 public school academies) responded (33%)
- 50% of public school superintendents responded
- 17% of ISDs responded
- 6% of PSAs responded

Results

Over half responding do not have any nursing services.

2.9% of those districts responding meet national standards for school nurse to student ratios.

70% of school nurses work fulltime; 11% work half time; 19% work less than 2.5 days a week.

The largest funder of nurses is school districts (73%).

Ratios

NASN recommends minimum ratios of nurses to students depending on the needs of the student populations:

- 1:750 for students in the general population;
- 1:225 in the student populations that may require daily professional school nursing services or interventions;
- 1:125 in student populations with complex health care needs; and
- 1:1 may be necessary for individual students who require daily and continuous professional nursing services.



Michigan School Nurse to Student Ratio

(estimation)

May 2011

Public School Total Ratio

	# of Districts	# of Nurses	Total Students	Students per nurse
Survey	272	221	880,042	3,989 to 1
Non-Survey ¹	275	125	646,311	5,163 to 1
Totals:	547	346	1,526,353	4,414 to 1



77 % of non-respondants had districts with less than 3,000 students

PSA Total Ratio

	# of PSAs	# of Nurses	Total Students	Students per nurse
Survey	16	4	5,685	1,421 to 1
Non-Survey ²	248	36	93,837	2,588 to 1
Totals:	264	40	99,522	2,471 to 1

ISD Total Ratio

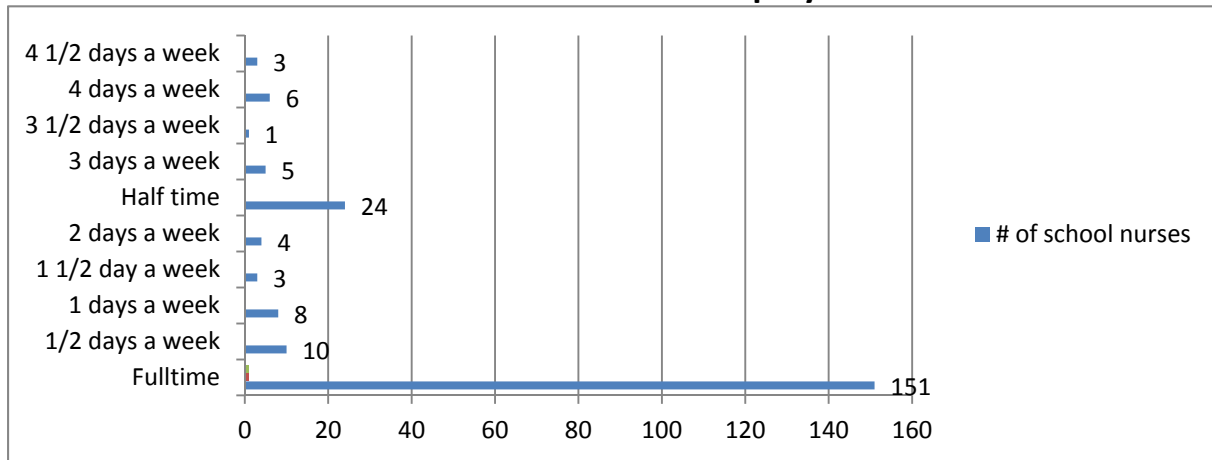
	# of ISDs	# of Nurses	Total Students	Students per nurse
Survey	10	16	5,425	339 to 1
Non-Survey ³	49	54	17,667	325 to 1
Totals:	59	70	23,092	328 to 1

¹ Non survey results are an estimate

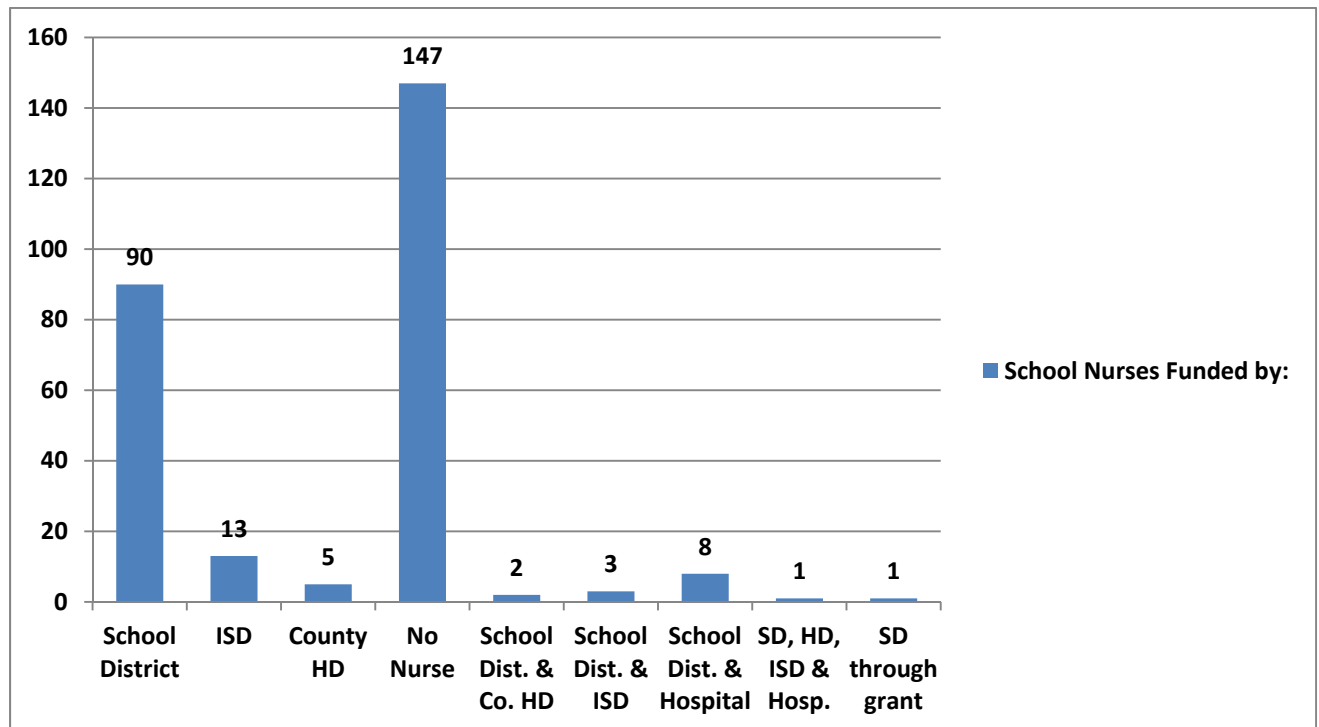
² Ibid

³ Ibid

How school nurses are employed ⁴



School Nurses Funded by ⁵



⁴ Not all districts responded to this query

⁵ Ibid.

Conclusions

Please note:

- In some cases, the numbers of school nurses reported may have been school based health center staff that may or may not provide nursing services to the entire school.
- In other cases, the school nurses reported may have been hired to assist special education students with a related nursing service required by their IEP. In those cases, the nurse would not provide services to the entire school population but rather serve a student 1:1.
- Superintendents may have reported LPNs as well as RNs.

This report reflects 33% of the Michigan School districts. Until accurate information can be obtained from those school districts who did not respond to the survey, the ratios are only a statistical guess. **The actual school nurse to student ratio could be better or worse.**

A more comprehensive study would be a next step. The data gathered should attempt to better:

- ✚ distinguish between school nurses that are RNs and those LPNs that are hired in those positions
- ✚ delineate between school based center staff and school nursing staff
- ✚ eliminate one to one assigned nurses or private duty nurses in the count
- ✚ make an effort to attain the assignment of each nurse which would more accurately establish school nurse to student ratio

With funding or the assistance of university or college interns, a more thorough examination of the school to student ratio could be accomplished. Once the location of school nurses are identified, identification of gaps in services can be examined.

MASN would like to thank those school superintendents who participated in the survey. Your input helps to validate how we measure up to other states in the critical area of school nurse staffing.

APPENDIX A: Data Results from Survey

Lower Range (Students per district)	Upper Range (Students per district)	# school districts with Nurse	Total School Districts Responded	% with Nurse	# of nurses	Average per school district
500		4	26	15%	2.3	0.58
500	1,000	7	42	17%	5.8	0.83
1,000	3,000	53	124	43%	47.8	0.90
3,000	5,000	19	37	51%	29	1.53
5,000	8,000	17	23	74%	30	1.76
8,000	12,000	6	10	60%	15.3	2.55
12,000	15,000	2	2	100%	3.5	1.75
15,000	20,000	5	6	83%	53.9	10.78
20,000	30,000	1	1	100%	1	1.00
	30,000	1	1	100%	32	32.00

Totals: 115 272 42% 220.6

Maximum Nurses by 1 district	% of Total Nurses
0.9	39%
1	17%
3	6%
5	17%
4.5	15%
5.4	35%
3	86%
35.4	66%
1	100%
32	100%

Non-Survey Assumptions

Lower Range	Upper Range	# school districts (Did not respond)	Total Number of Students	Weighted Average (% with nurse)	# of school districts (w/ nurse estimate)	Weighted Average (average per school district)
500		58	10,613	15%	9	0.58
500	1,000	46	35,417	17%	8	0.83
1,000	3,000	108	197,340	43%	46	0.90
3,000	5,000	35	132,134	51%	18	1.53
5,000	8,000	14	93,177	74%	10	1.76
8,000	12,000	6	61,530	60%	4	2.55
12,000	15,000	5	63,451	100%	5	1.75
15,000	20,000	2	32,184	83%	2	10.78
20,000	30,000	1	20,465	100%	1	10.00
	30,000	0	0	100%	0	

Totals: 275 646,311 31

Statistical Outlier Adjustment (1 district >= 30%)	Number of Nurses (Estimate)
0.47	4.2
	6.4
	41.6
	27.4
	18.3
1.98	7.1
0.50	2.5
4.63	7.7
	10.0
	0.0

125.2